

# ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



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## ALASKA HIGHLIGHTS

**2001 BARLEY** PLANTED ACRES UP 8 PERCENT FROM 2000.

**2001 OATS** PLANTED FOR ALL PURPOSES UP 52 PERCENT FROM 2000.

**POTATO ACREAGE** IN 2001 UP 3 PERCENT FROM 2000.

HARVEST INTENTIONS OF **ALL HAY** ACRES UP 32 PERCENT FROM 2000.

## US HIGHLIGHTS

**POTATO STOCKS** ON HAND JUNE 1, 2001 WERE 33 PERCENT OF 2000 PRODUCTION.

MAY **MILK** PRODUCTION WAS UP 14 PERCENT FROM MAY 2000.

U.S. **PRICES RECEIVED** MAY INDEX UP 2 POINTS FROM APRIL

U.S. **PRICES PAID** INDEX WAS UNCHANGED FROM APRIL

## JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

**BARLEY** planted for all purposes is estimated at 5,700 acres, and compares with 5,300 acres in 2000. **Tanana Valley** growers seeded nearly 5,200 acres compared with 5,100 acres in 2000. Most of this acreage is in the Delta Junction area. Barley seeded in **Matanuska Valley** and **Elsewhere** in the State totaled 500 acres, up from 200 acres in 2000.

Alaska farmers seeded 3,800 acres of **OATS** for all purposes in 2001, compared with 2,500 acres a year ago. Farmers intentions in early June were to harvest 30 percent of the 2001 planted acres for grain, up from just 12 percent harvested for grain in 2000.

**POTATO** growers planted an estimated 890 acres in 2001, compared with 860 acres last year. Tanana Valley growers planted 330 acres while Matanuska Valley and the Kenai Peninsula planted 560 acres.

At this point in the crop year, Alaska farmers intend to harvest 23,800 acres of **ALL HAY** for either hay or silage, up 32 percent from 2000. A breakdown of the acreage shows 3,300 acres of **GRAIN HAY** and 20,500 acres of **GRASS HAY** to be harvested in 2001. **Tanana Valley** growers intend to harvest 13,200 acres of all hay, up from 7,600 acres in 2000. **Matanuska Valley** growers plan to harvest 8,800 acres of all hay, up from 8,000 in 2000. **Kenai Peninsula and Elsewhere**, farmers hope to harvest 1,800 acres of all hay in 2001.

## POTATO STOCKS

**ALASKA:** Potato stocks in storage on June 1, 2001 totaled 14,000 cwt, up from 42,000 cwt a year ago. This compares with the five year average of 31,300 cwt on hand June 1. Disappearance since May totaled 29,700 cwt.

**Major States** held a record high 63.2 million cwt of potatoes on June 1, 2001, up 34 percent from last year and 26 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 14 percent of the 2000 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. Disappearance, at a record high 399 million cwt, was up 7 percent from last year. May disappearance totaled 48.3 million cwt, 22 percent above last year. Potatoes used for processing to June 1 totaled 190 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year in comparable states. May processing of 20.3 million cwt was 3 percent above last year in comparable States.

**Western States** held 52.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on June 1, 2001, up 39 percent from last year and 38 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 150 percent from a year ago and Idaho's were up 17 percent. Oregon's stocks were up 16 percent while Colorado's stocks were unchanged. California's potato stocks were down 29 percent from last year. The Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) held 77 percent of June 1 potato stocks across the country.

## MILK PRODUCTION

**ALASKA:** May milk production totaled 1,275,000 pounds, up from a year ago, and 236,000 pounds above the April 2001 production. Production per cow, at 1,240 pounds, compares with 1,330 pounds in May 2000. Milk cows at 1100 head were up 200 head from 2000.

Production during the first five months of 2001 totaled 5,888,000 pounds, compared with 5,240,000 pounds for the same period last year.

**SELECTED STATES:** Milk production in the 20 major states during May totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 1.1 percent from May 2000. April revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds, was down 2.0 percent from April 2000. The April revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 14 million pounds from last month's production estimate.

**PRODUCTION PER COW** in the 20 major States averaged 1,629 pounds for May, 7 pounds below May 2000.

## U.S. CROP PRODUCTION

**WINTER WHEAT** production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and 15 percent below 2000 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from the last forecast. Grain area totals 32.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

The Pacific Northwest States' (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) winter wheat crop condition declined slightly during May. Warm, dry weather during May has reduced yield expectations for Idaho dryland farmers. In Oregon, the irrigated acres are still looking good where irrigation water is available, however hot dry weather has stressed most of the dryland wheat. The Washington crop is a little stressed, but progressing well.

## U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRICES

All Farm Products index of **PRICES RECEIVED** in May was 108 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (1.9 percent) from the April Index. Higher prices for milk, hogs, tomatoes, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for strawberries, cattle, eggs, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloups, broilers, grapes, and peaches were partially offset by lower marketings of cattle, milk, asparagus, cotton, and hogs.

Compared with May 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (8.0 percent) higher. Price increases from May 2000 for milk, broilers, cantaloups, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli, and lettuce.

**FEED GRAINS AND HAY:** The May index was 89, unchanged from last month, but 8.2 percent below May 2000. The corn price, at \$1.78 per bushel, was down 11 cents from last month and 33 cents below May 2000. Favorable weather in the Corn Belt drove prices lower. The all hay price, at \$106.00 per ton, was \$11.20 above April and \$15.00 above last May.

**MEAT ANIMALS:** The May index, at 103 was down 1.0 percent from last month but up 5.1 percent from a year ago. The May hog price was \$51.40 per cwt, up \$3.60 from April and up \$3.10 from a year ago. April hog slaughter was down 6 percent from last month. The May beef cattle price, at \$72.70 per cwt, was down \$2.90 from last month but up \$3.30 from April 2000. Cattle slaughter is increasing seasonally.

The May Index of **PRICES PAID** for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 123 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from April but 4 points (3.4 percent) above May 2000. Lower prices in May for nitrogen fertilizers, complete feeds, feeder cattle, and feeder pigs were offset by higher prices for hay and forages, gasoline, and diesel fuel.

### **FORECAST 2001 U.S. AG EXPORTS RAISED \$500 MILLION IMPORTS DROPPED \$1 BILLION**

Projected fiscal 2001 U.S. agricultural exports are increased to \$53.5 billion, \$500 million above the February forecast and \$2.6 billion over fiscal 2000. The import forecast is reduced to \$39 billion, \$1 billion less than in February and virtually unchanged from 2000. These changes boost the expected agricultural export surplus to \$14.5 billion, the largest in 3 years.

High-value products (HVP) account for almost all of the projected 2001 export growth. Estimated at \$35.7 billion, 2001 HVP exports are up \$1 billion from February and nearly \$2.6 billion over 2000. Hides and skins lead HVP gains, as exports are increased \$400 million from February and from 2000.

For imports, continued weak coffee prices result in a \$1 billion downward adjustment in the forecast.

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